

1 WE CLAIM:

2 1. A method for developing a plurality of traffic messages comprising:  
3 obtaining traffic data indicating a plurality of traffic conditions on a road network,  
4 said traffic data includes a location description for each of said traffic conditions;  
5 for each of said traffic conditions, converting said location description into a  
6 location reference code assigned by a traffic message supplier; and  
7 transmitting said traffic messages representing said traffic conditions, each of said  
8 traffic messages include said location reference code of one of said traffic conditions.  
9

10 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description is an  
11 alphanumeric description.  
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13 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description is a text  
14 description.  
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16 4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description provides a main  
17 road along which said traffic condition exists and a cross road proximate said traffic  
18 condition on said main road, wherein said main road and said cross road being converted  
19 into said location reference code.  
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21 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description a landmark  
22 proximate said traffic condition on said road network, wherein said landmark being  
23 converted into said location reference code.  
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25 6. The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description provides a point  
26 of interest proximate said traffic condition on said road network, wherein said point of  
27 interest being converted into said location reference code.  
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29 7. The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description provides an  
30 address proximate said traffic condition on said road network, wherein said address being  
31 converted into said location reference code.

1           8.     The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description provides a  
2 latitude and longitude position of said traffic condition, wherein said latitude and  
3 longitude position being converted into said location reference code.  
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5           9.     The method of Claim 1 wherein said location description provides a main  
6 road along which said traffic condition exists, a start description indicating a beginning of  
7 said traffic condition on said main road and an end description indicating an end of said  
8 traffic condition on said main road, wherein said main road and said start description  
9 being converted into a first location reference code and said main road and said end  
10 description being converted into a second location reference code.  
11

12          10.    The method of Claim 9 further comprising determining a number of  
13 contiguous location reference codes affected by said traffic condition from said first  
14 location reference code to said second location reference code.  
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16          11.    The method of Claim 1 wherein said converting step is performed with a  
17 conversion table.  
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19          12.    The method of Claim 11 wherein if said conversion table does not provide  
20 a match between said location description and said location reference code, said traffic  
21 condition is excluded from said transmitted traffic messages.  
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23          13.    The method of Claim 1 wherein said converting step comprises geo-  
24 coding said location description with a geographic database.  
25

26          14.    The method of Claim 1 wherein said traffic data includes a duration and  
27 said method further comprising, for each of said traffic conditions, converting said  
28 duration into a duration code assigned by said traffic message supplier.  
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1           15.    The method of Claim 1 wherein said traffic data includes a duration and  
2   said method further comprising determining whether said duration has expired, if so, said  
3   traffic condition is excluded from said transmitted traffic messages.

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5           16.    The method of Claim 1 further comprising, for each of said traffic  
6   conditions, determining a direction affected by said traffic condition.

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8           17.    The method of Claim 1 wherein said traffic data includes an event  
9   description and said method further comprising for each of said traffic conditions,  
10   converting said event description into a event code assigned by said traffic message  
11   supplier.

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13          18.    The method of Claim 1 wherein said event description is a traffic speed.

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15          19.    A method for developing a plurality of traffic messages comprising:  
16          obtaining traffic data indicating traffic conditions at a plurality of locations on a  
17   road network, said traffic data includes a location description for each of said traffic  
18   conditions;

19          for each of said traffic conditions, converting said location description into a  
20   location reference code assigned by a traffic message supplier and an extent of a number  
21   of consecutive location reference codes affected by said traffic condition;

22          transmitting said traffic messages representing said traffic conditions, each of said  
23   traffic messages include said location reference code and said extent of said traffic  
24   condition.

25  
26          20.    The method of Claim 19 wherein said location description is an  
27   alphanumeric description.

1           21.    The method of Claim 19 wherein said location of said traffic data provides  
2   a road description of a road along which said traffic condition exists, a start description  
3   indicating a beginning of said traffic condition along said road and an end description of  
4   said traffic condition along said road, wherein said road description and said start  
5   description being converted into said location reference code and said road description  
6   and said end description being converted into said extent.

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8           22.    The method of Claim 19 further comprising determining said number of  
9   contiguous location reference codes affected by said traffic condition.

10  
11          23.    The method of Claim 19 wherein said converting step is performed with a  
12   conversion table.

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14          24.    The method of Claim 19 further comprising, for each of said traffic  
15   conditions, determining a direction affected by said traffic condition.

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17          25.    The method of Claim 19 wherein said converting step comprises geo-  
18   coding said location description with a geographic database.

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20          26.    A method for developing a plurality of traffic messages comprising:  
21           obtaining traffic data indicating traffic conditions on a road network, said traffic  
22   data includes a location description for each of said traffic conditions;  
23           for each of said traffic conditions, converting said location description into a first  
24   location reference code and a second location reference code assigned by a traffic  
25   message supplier, wherein said first location reference code indicates where said traffic  
26   condition begins and said second location reference code indicates where said traffic  
27   condition ends;  
28           transmitting said traffic messages representing said traffic conditions, each of said  
29   traffic messages include said first location reference code and said second location  
30   reference code of said traffic condition.